

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,536,880 to Takagi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

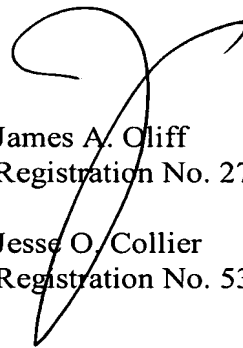
The Office Action asserts that Takagi teaches an ink jet head comprising all of the features recited in the pending claims, including dummy electrodes 36' at positions other than positions corresponding to pressure chambers 16, such dummy electrodes being spaced from outermost one of the individual electrodes with respect to an arrangement direction, citing Figs. 2 and 6 and col. 4, lines 13-22. Takagi discloses dummy pattern electrodes 36' that do not contribute to deformation of the piezoelectric sheet, but are mounted on the same piezoelectric sheet (e.g., element 26 of Fig. 6) as the drive electrodes 36. However, Takagi does not disclose or suggest that the dummy pattern electrodes 36' have substantially the same residual stress characteristics as the drive electrodes 36, as recited in the pending claims. In fact, Takagi does not disclose, or can be reasonably read to suggest, that the residual stress characteristics of the dummy pattern electrodes are in any way related or commensurate to the residual stress characteristics of the drive electrodes mounted on the same piezoelectric (see Fig. 6).

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 8 recite features not disclosed or reasonably suggested By Takagi. Further, the claims depending from claim 1 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons, as well as for the additional features that they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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